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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

MESSAGE

To The

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

57th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ILLINOIS

By

LOUIS L. EMMERSON

GOVERNOR

SEPTEMBER 7, 1932

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MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR LOUIS L. EMMERSON TO THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Fifty-seventh General Assembly:

For the fourth time I have convened the General Assembly in special session since the adjournment of the last regular session. At the previous sessions two important matters were called to the attention of the members—reduction in the cost of government and more equitable distribution of the expense of government. To secure these results completely, changes will have to be made in the Constitution of the State. It is an immense and difficult problem and I hope that the best efforts of the lawmakers of Illinois will be persistently directed toward a solution.

At this time we are confronted with an emergency which because of its imminence and possible results temporarily eclipses any other problem. We are obliged to furnish the necessities of life to hundreds of thousands of persons who because of lack of employment are unable to earn their daily bread. Millions of dollars have been provided and expended for this purpose. Nine million dollars was secured from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and this will be exhausted not later than September 30th. No more will be forthcoming unless further efforts to provide funds are made by the State and its political subdivisions.

This is the emergency. As Governor, it is my duty to convene the General Assembly on extraordinary occasions. It is your duty as the General Assembly of the State of Illinois to enact such laws as you in your discretion determine will best meet the emergency. The proclamation for this special session will permit you to exercise your discretion.

The time which you have for consideration is very limited. It is entirely inadequate to permit discussion of other legislative matters. I think you will find it necessary to employ to the fullest extent the few days permitted you in order to determine and enact wise and carefully considered legislation which will make possible the continued care of the unemployed and their dependents.

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